

**City of Selah
Council Minutes**

May 24, 2005

Regular Meeting
Selah Council Chambers
115 West Naches Avenue
Selah, WA 98942

A. Call to Order Mayor Jones called the meeting to order at 4:02pm.

B. Roll Call

Members Present: Brian Harris, Jerry Kobes, Keith Larson, Pete McNew, Allen Schmid, Herb Schmidt, Scott Smeback

Members Excused:

Staff Present: Frank Sweet, City Supervisor; Bob Noe, City Attorney; Rick Gutierrez, Police Chief; Jerry Davis, Fire Chief; Joe Henne, Public Works Director; Dennis Davison, Community Planner; Jeff Hagler, Parks & Recreation Director; Dale Novobielski, Clerk/Treasurer

C. Pledge of Allegiance

Councilman Schmid led the Pledge of Allegiance. Pastor Mark Strobel led the group in prayer.

D. Agenda Changes

E. Public Appearances

Mayor Jones asked the Public Works crew to come forward to be recognized for their hard work before and during Community Days. Crew members Jim Morrison, Dave Longmire, Warren Peters, Scott Kramer, Bruce Forenpohar, Dave Carpenter, Vern Ford and Jared Sybouts came forward to be thanked and congratulated by Council Members.

Councilman Jerry Kobes, on behalf of the Community Days Association, thanked the Public Works crew for all of the little things that make Community Days run smoothly. He also thanked the Police Chief.

Mayor Jones recognized Utility Supervisor Ty Jones and Public Works Director Joe Henne. He noted that even though money is tight, the City is planning a new Public Works shop.

1. Donna Garner – Selah C.A.N.

Donna Garner addressed the Council on behalf of Selah C.A.N. praising fund-raising efforts for the Teen Center. She praised Jeff Hagler who was able to secure a grant of \$5,000 from the Yakama Nation.

Councilman Jerry Kobes asked Brad Helms to come forward. The Councilman explained that he had attended an awards banquet sponsored by the 737 transportation group of the Yakima Firing Center. He introduced Debbie Bockman and Kimberly Schoolcraft of the Family Readiness Group, and thanked them for the outstanding support they gave the 737. They then presented a flag and certificate to Brad Helms and the Civic Center Board to acknowledge their support for the 737. Councilman Kobes noted the Family Readiness Group also received an Everyday Hero Award at Kiwanis. Ms. Bockman praised the support Selah has given the 737th and their support group.

Mayor Jones noted the Parks & Recreation Service Area election was unsuccessful. He introduced Bill Harris, from the Greater Yakima Girls' Softball Association, a major advocate for the bond issue.

Bill Harris addressed the Council, stating they came within 3-400 votes from passing the bond. He stated GYGSA wants to go forward. He noted he wants to talk to the City about what must be done to keep the softball portion of the proposal moving forward, and that there are tourism dollars that will come to the City as a result.

City Supervisor Frank Sweet stated the City has contacted Huibregtse, Louman Associates, Inc. to break down some ideas for working on Carlon Park. Soccer, Little League and Skateboard will not be a part of it, rather the focus will be on the benefits girls' fast-pitch will bring to the community.

Mayor Jones stated that does not mean that we will not go ahead with those projects as well.

Bill Harris stated fast-pitch is currently bringing in about \$5-6,000 per year. He cited the example that 900 people were in town for softball this weekend. He stated girls' fast-pitch wants to be in Selah. He emphasized new fields could bring in additional tournaments in the fall.

Councilman Allen Schmid reported he attended a meeting last week with Bill Harris, Scott Smeback, Jeff Hagler, Frank Sweet, Mayor Jones. He stated they will look at grants and other funding sources that might be available, and he is encouraged about what he's hearing.

Councilman Scott Smeback stated it's important to have a first class field; a mens' slow-pitch field is inappropriate for girls fast-pitch. He predicted people will start avoiding fields like ours if better fields are available. He stated the community grows with its facilities, and those sports spill down to younger kids.

Mayor Jones agreed, stating one of his proudest accomplishments is the completion of Carlon Park as an active park during his tenure on the Council. He promised the City will proceed with upgrading these fields. He cited the success of McGonagle Park fund-raising efforts, suggesting the same kinds of things might work for Carlon.

Bill Harris stated girls' softball is a willing participant and investor in the process.

Councilman Allen Schmid thanked Bill Harris for his efforts on the youth sports bond issue.

Mayor Jones said those living north of Goodlander or west of 16th have their tax dollars go to the County.

Councilman Herb Schmidt stated we can be proud of sponsoring sports that can be used for all of peoples' lives.

Mayor Jones cited the example of little girls involved in dancing, stating this community takes care of its youth.

F. Getting To Know Our Businesses

G. Communications

1. Oral

a. Terica Taylor – Yakima Valley Visitor & Convention Bureau Annual Report

Terica Taylor from the Yakima Valley Visitors and Convention Center, reported that this year they hosted tours of area and Yakima River Canyon, and that a German version of Travelocity features the Yakima River Canyon article. This year they have featured the Selah Farmers Market. She stated Scenic Byways and agricultural tourism are a new focus, and they have put \$20,000 and have hired a new employee named Cec to focus on that area. She stated the PBS show "America's Heartland" will be coming through the Yakima Valley and displayed a new rack card on fly fishing. New YV&C software will allow them to hook into Travelocity. She stated they are developing a group tour handbook, and a new staff person will sell tours. Ms. Taylor said they are working to enhance their website and that they advertise in every issue of *The Seattle Times*. She praised Councilman Herb Schmidt's representation of the City of Selah as representative for the Tourism Promotion Area, noting he is the only public official who has attended every meeting. She invited Council Members to drop her an email if they know of upcoming events. She concluded by reporting "The Price Is Right" Showcase Showdown will be giving away a Wine Tour of the Yakima Valley. Recently ten United Kingdom writers toured the area and remarked that Selah is the cleanest city they've seen.

2. Written

a. Letter from Mickey Mackey

Mayor Jones referred to a letter from Mickey Mackey noting he also has concerns about homes with trailers in yard being sublet, campers, old cars all with the flavor of "Tobacco Road." He stated he doesn't know exactly how the City can deal with it, but perhaps should look at a requirement for landlords.

City Attorney Bob Noe said some issues may be covered by current nuisance codes.

H. Proclamations/Announcements

I. Consent Agenda

All items listed with an asterisk (*) were considered as part of the Consent Agenda.

- * 1. Approval of Minutes: Council Meeting May 10, 2005
- * 2. Approval of Claims & Payroll: Claims check nos. 45289 – 45366 for a total of \$61,209.35 and Payroll checks nos. 56106 – 56180 for a total of \$99,725.47.

Mayor Jones stated chickens are allowed (up to four), but roosters are not. Goats are also prohibited.

Councilman Pete McNew suggested adding M-1 to the Consent Agenda.

Councilman Herb Schmidt suggested adding N-1 to the Consent Agenda.

Councilman Jerry Kobes suggested adding M-2 to the Consent Agenda.

Councilman Scott Smeback moved and Councilman Keith Larson seconded to add these items. By voice vote, motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Jones read the Consent Agenda as amended.

Councilman Larson moved approval of the Consent Agenda as amended. Councilman Kobes seconded. By voice vote, motion carried unanimously.

J. Public Hearings

K. New Business

L. Old Business

M. Resolutions

- * 1. Resolution Establishing Public Hearing Date of June 28, 2005 To Consider the Six-Year Transportation Improvement Program for the Years 2006 to 2011
- * 2. Resolution Setting the Amount for Meal Entitlements
- 3. Resolution Authorizing the Mayor To Sign Local Agency Agreement Supplement No. 4 for Phase II, Crusher Canyon Road Improvements

Public Works Director Joe Henne stated this will allow him to obligate additional monies shown in column 2 of the supplement for funding of the right-of-way on Crusher Canyon. He stated this also will restart the ten-year clock on use of monies, and bring the City back into the good graces of the Federal Highway Administration.

Mayor Jones enumerated changes made possible with this project. He praised the Public Works Director's work with the TIB for funding.

Mr. Henne noted he is still working with the TIB and the Feds on funding and will likely bring back at least one more supplement.

Councilman Schmidt moved and Councilman Smeback seconded to adopt the Resolution Authorizing the Mayor To Sign Local Agency Agreement Supplement No. 4 for Phase II, Crusher Canyon Road Improvements. Roll was called. Councilman Smeback – yes; Councilman Schmid – yes; Councilman Schmidt – yes; Councilman McNew – yes; Councilman Larson – yes; Councilman Kobes – yes; Councilman Harris – yes. Motion carried unanimously.

N. Ordinances

- * 1. Ordinance Amending the 2005 Budget for Local Street Maintenance Program

O. Communications

1. Oral

P. Reports/Announcements

1. Mayor
2. Council Members
3. Boards
4. Departmental

Community Planner Dennis Davison reported he has heard nothing from Hearing Examiner on either the SEPA appeal or the Torkelson rezone. He stated there are a couple of new plats they will be processing and the Public Works Director has a Six-Year Transportation Improvement Plan. In addition he cited several short plats or changes in plats that will also be coming before the Council.

Clerk/Treasurer Dale Novobielski reported sales taxes are up slightly over the budgeted amount.

Public Works Director Joe Henne stated he is glad Community Days are over. He reported they have started the final phase of painting the reservoir and are waiting to receive the pump to fill the reservoir. Dust abatement will begin in a couple of weeks.

Councilman Scott Smeback reiterated the importance of updating the Carlon Park fields.

Councilman Keith Larson reported that when the United Way subcommittee came through town he and his dad met with them at the Civic Center. He noted he was amazed at how many activities and programs that help youth and the elderly take place in Civic Center.

Councilman Brian Harris reported he will be in the "dog pound" as of Monday taking donations for charities one of which is Wishing Star.

Councilman Herb Schmidt called Council Members' attention to a publication from the tourism board. He reported community leader Don Skone is in Seattle fighting cancer for his life.

Councilman Jerry Kobes added his thanks to Fire Chief Jerry Davis. He thanked Frank Sweet for his efforts during Community Days. He reported that \$4-5,000 from United Way in Selah is designated to be returned to Selah.

Council Allen Schmid stated what has been said about United Way is true. They have to honor the wishes of the person donating. He stated he is disturbed with Monday's editorial in the newspaper as well as the coverage on the radio about the allocation of Law & Justice funds. He stated media keep telling people that Selah will spend its money for streets, and that's all they say. He said that keeps happening regardless of how many times we've sent news releases or the Mayor has directly contacted the newspaper or radio explaining how the money is being used for law and justice. He quoted the official ballot title and definition "provide funds to make improvements to public safety *and* promote justice services *and* to hire county and city law enforcement officials." He stated County Commissioners identified in their resolution that 100% of the County share dedicated to criminal justice purposes, but nowhere did it say anything about *any city* in Yakima County making a similar dedication. He stated it irritates him to read directly from materials regarding the ballot issue and still take heat for how we manage money. He praised the ability of Selah to maintain staff in our Police Force and to add

a new position with this money. He stated that people ought to understand what the title states. He stated Yakima County has reported it is going to put two people on, but does not add that they are already fourteen or fifteen people down due to cuts made previously. He stated Selah has not cut police and has continuously supported law enforcement, and that is why we have a low level of crime.

Mayor Jones stated this problem began when the Motor Vehicle Excise Tax went down, and fire departments as well as police departments lost money. He stated the radio station has been given the facts, but he is not sure they can read.

Police Chief Rick Gutierrez reported Rusty has been recognized as Yakima Valley Kennel Club 2005 Dog of the Year.

Parks & Recreation Director Jeff Hagler said he was disappointed by the bond issue's going down. He reported the election committee is meeting tonight to discuss how best to proceed. He stated the skate-park association is moving forward to put a slab at the proposed site. He stated he has met with the school district and together they will arrange to keep soccer going in Selah.

Mayor Jones stated it irritates him because Selah is in good financial shape and yet can't gather support for the bond. He offered his time to Parks & Rec in support of soccer. He thanked Frank Sweet for his work on Community Days. He thanked Dale Novobielski and Jerry Kobes for their work with Community Days and other Selah activities. He thanked Jeff for the positive influence he has had on kids.

Councilman Schmid without objection moved the Mayor and Council go into Executive Session to discuss employment.

Q. Executive Session

The Mayor declared a short recess and the Council went into Executive session at 5:22.

The Council moved out of Executive Session at 6:30.

R. Adjournment

Council Member McNew moved and Council Member Larson seconded that the meeting be adjourned. By voice vote, the motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 6:32pm.

Robert L. Jones, Mayor

Gerald Kobes, Council Member

Keith Larson, Council Member

Peter McNew, Council Member

Brian Harris, Council Member

Herb Schmidt, Council Member

Scott Smeback, Council Member

Allen Schmid, Council Member

ATTEST:

Dale E. Novobielski, Clerk/Treasurer